



Press Release

Press Release Announcement - October 1, 2002 - For Immediate Use

State's Hog & Pig Inventory Down 10,000 Head

HARRISBURG --- There were 1,060,000 hogs and pigs on **Pennsylvania** farms on September 1, 2002, according to the Pennsylvania Agricultural Statistics Service (PASS). This estimated inventory was down 20,000 head from the previous year's inventory and down 10,000 head from June 2002.

Market hog inventory, at 935,000 head decreased 20,000 head since September 2001; but down only 5,000 head since June 2002. Breeding stock inventory, at 125,000 head, remained the same as September 2001 but decreased by 5,000 since June of 2002. The June-August 2002 pig crop totaled 466,000 head, a decrease of 4,000 head from June 2002 and down 9,000 head from September a year ago. There were 53,000 sows farrowed during the quarter, down 1,000 head from the previous year. The average litter rate was 8.80 pigs per litter which is the same as a year ago but 0.10 more than previous quarter in 2002.

Pennsylvania hog farmers intend to have 52,000 sows farrow during the September-November 2002 period down 3,000 head from the 55,000 that actually farrowed in the same period one year ago. Farrowing intentions for the December 2002-February 2003 quarter are estimated at 52,000 head, 1,000 head less than actually farrowed in the first quarter of 2002.

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**U.S.** inventory of all hogs and pigs on September 1, 2002, was 60.2 million head. This was 1 percent above September 2001, and slightly above above June 2002. Breeding inventory, at 6.05 million head, was down from September 1, 2001 and down 2 percent from last quarter. Market hog inventory, at 54.2 million head, was 1 percent above last year and slightly above last quarter.

The June 2002-August 2002 **U.S.** pig crop, at 251 million head, was 2 percent less than both 2001 and 2000. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.83 million head, 2 percent below last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 46 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs per litter was 8.87 pigs saved per litter for the June-August 2002 period, unchanged from last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.60 for operations with 1-99 hogs to 9.00 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

**U.S.** hog producers intend to have 2.82 million sows farrow during the September-November 2002 quarter, 2 percent below the actual farrowings during the same period in 2001, and 1 percent below 2000. Intended farrowings for December 2002-February 2003, at 2.81 million sows, are 1 percent below the same period in 2002, and up 2 percent from 2001. The total number of hogs under contract, owned by operations with over 5,000 head, but raised by contractees, accounted for 35 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory, unchanged from last year.